IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0021] as follows:

[0021] In accordance with a first embodiment of the invention, there is provided a method for the manufacture of a non-ferrous vaned diffuser, preferably from aluminum. In this method, a male metallic template of a vaned diffuser is first prepared that includes a) a central portion comprising a hub that facilitates casting, machining, and finishing of the diffuser, and (b) at least the upper surface of the vaned diffuser comprising the vanes. A female plaster mold is cast from the male metallic template by applying a plaster slurry to the male template and allowing the plaster to dry and harden within a suitable frame. The hardened female plaster mold is then separated from the male template along the translational axis corresponding to the central hub axis, and herein termed the "pullable axis." Molten metal, preferably non-ferrous metal or alloy having a melting point of less than about 700°C, more preferably molten aluminum, is introduced into the plaster female mold assisted by evacuation of the plaster mold, and the metal is then permitted to cool and solidify. The metal vaned diffuser casting is pulled to separate it from the plaster cast along the pullable axis or translational axis corresponding to the central hub axis. Finally, machine finishing removes the hub and to yield the near-net vaned diffuser, which may be finished by conventional means.